

Appl. No. 10/644,400
Amdt. Dated Dec. 5, 2005
Reply to Office Action Mailed October 19, 2005

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-5 and 9-10 remain pending in the application. These Remarks are in response to the Office action mailed October 19, 2005.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

In the October 19, 2005 Office action, claims 1-5 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hollar (US 2003/0126048).

In response to this rejection, applicant respectfully traverses and submits that the pending claims are allowable under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Hollar.

Claim 1 as amended recites a fixed assets management system *for calculating depreciation expenses and revaluing fixed assets when fixed asset variations occur*, the fixed assets management system comprising an application server, a database server, and a plurality of client computers linking to the application server through a network, wherein the application server comprises:

a depreciation method selecting module for selecting suitable depreciation methods for fixed assets;

a depreciation period setting module for setting appropriate depreciation periods for fixed assets in accordance with the types of the fixed assets;

a depreciation expense calculating module for calculating depreciation

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expenses according to purchase prices, depreciation methods and depreciation periods of fixed assets; and

a fixed asset variation management module for revaluing fixed assets when fixed asset variations occur.

Applicant submits that Hollar does not teach, disclose, or otherwise suggest the features described above, as set forth in amended claim 1.

Hollar discloses a method and computer-based system used to manage lease transactions, leased assets, and perform related accounting functions. The system facilitates the ability to generate multiple book entries across multiple book sets from a single operational event (see page 2, paragraph [0008]). Further, the system also facilitates the ability to adjust present and future decisions based on past and present conditions (see page 3, paragraph [0012]). Applicant acknowledges that para. [0074] discloses "depreciation calculations," but this paragraph discloses nothing more in relation to depreciation. Therefore, Hollar fails to disclose or suggest a fixed assets management system for calculating depreciation expenses and *revaluing fixed assets when fixed asset variations occur*. Examples of variations of fixed assets can be found in paragraph [0015] on pages 4-5 of the present application.

In the first Office action, it is stated that Hollar discloses a depreciation period setting module for setting appropriate depreciation periods for fixed assets (see page 9, paragraph [0106]). Applicant respectfully submits that this para. merely discloses that a booking subsystem can set depreciation start dates, as well as effective dates for an asset's location when a lease is booked. Hollar does not disclose any sort of depreciation period setting module used to set appropriate depreciation *periods* for *fixed* assets. Moreover, Hollar does

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not disclose or suggest any sort of depreciation period setting module used to set appropriate depreciation periods for fixed assets *in accordance with the types of the fixed assets*.

In addition, Hollar discloses that billing schedules, payment periods, depreciation calculations, and other calendar related information are managed by the computer system (see page 5, paragraph [0074]). In the first Office action, it is stated that Hollar discloses a depreciation expense calculating module for calculating depreciation expenses according to purchase prices, depreciation methods and depreciation periods of fixed assets. However, applicant respectfully submits that para. [0074] merely discloses "depreciation calculations," and that Examiner's characterization of this disclosure as being the same as calculating depreciation expenses according to purchase prices, depreciation methods and depreciation periods of fixed assets is improper. In addition, in the first Office action, it is stated that Hollar discloses a depreciation method selecting module for selecting suitable depreciation methods for fixed assets (see page 8, paragraph [0098]). However, applicant respectfully submits that this para. merely discloses "various rules," and that Examiner's characterization of this disclosure as being the same as selecting suitable depreciation methods for fixed assets is improper. Therefore, Hollar does not teach or suggest a depreciation expense calculating module which can calculate depreciation expenses *according to purchase prices, depreciation methods and depreciation periods of fixed assets*.

Furthermore, Hollar does disclose that a user can also modify the depreciation method used for an asset, overriding a depreciation method set for an item category or item type (see page 8, paragraph [0102]). However, Hollar does not disclose a fixed asset variation management module for

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revaluing fixed assets when fixed asset variations occur. Applicant respectfully submits that Examiner's characterization of modifying a depreciation method as being the same as revaluing fixed assets when fixed asset variations occur is improper. Therefore, the function of the fixed asset variation management module of the application server as provided by the present invention is quite different from the modifying means disclosed by Hollar.

In summary, applicant submits that amended claim 1 is not only novel but also unobvious over Hollar under both 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. 103, and reconsideration and removal of the rejection and allowance of amended claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5 depend directly from amended claim 1, and incorporate more features therein respectively. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 2-5 are also novel and unobvious over Hollar under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. 103. Thus claims 2-5 should also now be allowable.

Claim 9 recites a computer implemented fixed assets management method *for revaluing a varied fixed asset when a fixed asset variation occurs*, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving information on the varied fixed asset;

accessing a relevant depreciation status statement for the varied fixed asset from a database server;

providing a fixed asset variation management module to calculate a residual value for the varied fixed asset according to a purchase

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price and depreciation expenses in the depreciation status statement;

designating a new usage date;

providing a depreciation method selecting module to select a new depreciation method for the varied fixed asset;

providing a depreciation period setting module to set a new depreciation period for the varied fixed asset in accordance with the type of the fixed asset; and

providing a depreciation expense calculating module to calculate a depreciation rate and a depreciation expense of each year for the varied fixed asset according to the residual value, the newly set depreciation method and the new depreciation period.

For at least reasons similar and corresponding to those asserted above in relation to amended claim 1, applicant submits that Hollar does not disclose, teach, or otherwise suggests the features highlighted above, as set forth in claim 9.

In addition, the computer implemented fixed assets management method of the present invention can calculate a depreciation rate and a depreciation expense of each year for the varied fixed asset, and revalue a varied fixed asset when a fixed asset variation occur. Therefore, applicant submits that claim 9 is not only novel but also unobvious over Hollar under both 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. 103, and reconsideration and removal of the rejection and allowance of claim 9 are respectfully requested.

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Claim 10 depends from claim 9, and incorporates an additional feature therein. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 10 is also novel and unobvious over Hollar under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. 103. Thus claim 10 should also now be allowable.

In view of the above remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
Juei-Mei Wang

By



Wei Te Chung

Registration No.: 43,325
Foxconn International, Inc.
P.O. Address: 1650 Memorex Drive,
Santa Clara, CA 95050
Tel. No.: (408) 919-6137